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## **MEASURE P**

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### **PENRYN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX**

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**Shall Measure P which imposes a fire protection special tax to continue current fire and emergency medical operations, maintain response times, and retain experienced fire and emergency medical personnel within the Penryn Fire District be approved?**

**YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_**

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#### **IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL**

The Penryn Fire Protection District Board of Directors proposes to impose an additional special tax in order to continue 24-hour operations and fire safety within the district (Resolution 2004-02). This tax would be in addition to the special tax currently imposed in the District for fire protection of \$75.00, previously approved by the voters.

The District is proposing to tax various classifications of parcels as follows. The proposed tax would be \$50.00 for improved, residential, and irrigated farm parcels, \$40.00 for each mobile home park trailer, and \$.04 per sq. ft. for commercial parcel. The proposed tax is more fully described in the above-referenced resolution.

If approved by the voters, the above-described tax rates may be adjusted annually, at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the District for the ensuing fiscal year, using a designated Consumer Price Index published by the federal government.

This additional special tax, which would be imposed upon the passage of Measure P, would be an annual tax upon parcels of property commencing with the 2005-2006 tax year. The special tax would be collected in the same manner as the County collects ad valorem property taxes.

A "YES" vote is a vote in favor of the Penryn Fire Protection District imposing an additional special tax.

A "NO" vote is a vote against the Penryn Fire Protection District imposing an additional special tax.

Measure P must receive approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the voters voting upon the measure to be considered approved by the voters.

Anthony J. La Bouff  
County Counsel

By: Sabrina M. Thompson  
Deputy County Counsel

**ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS  
TO MEASURE P  
BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE**

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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

Penryn Fire struggles to pay its firefighters minimum wage! (\$6.75 hr).

Since 1996 we have improved from all volunteer staffing to two full time paid firefighters (24/7) in order to provide a reliable and skilled level of first response to Penryn. Looking ahead it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain this level of response because of increasing costs in workers compensation, fuel, and maintenance.

Most people in our community gasp when they learn how little our firefighters are paid. We experience rapid turnover because after we provide firefighters with necessary skills and training they frequently move on to higher paying jobs elsewhere. Although compensation is low, pride and morale are high. Everyone here at Penryn Fire loves what they do, and wants to serve our fellow citizens the best that they can.

In order to retain experienced, well trained and qualified personnel, the district is proposing this annual Special Tax of \$50.00 per home, and \$.04 cents per square foot for businesses. This special tax will take effect July 1, 2005.

Without this new Special Tax, we will gradually see the regression of the services provided by the district, eventually leading back to all volunteer staffing.

### **Vote YES on Measure P!**

Christopher Dobb, Board Chairman  
Michael Posehn, Director  
Thomas Bowling, Director  
Shirley Gordon, Director  
Aaron Willson, Director

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## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

The argument for Measure P states "Penryn Fire struggles to pay its firefighters minimum wage."  
The financial condition of the Penryn Fire District can be determined by examining the audited financial statements for the last 5 years.

### **Financial Examination Results**

**During the past 5 years the Penryn Fire District was able to save large amounts of money since revenue exceeded expenses by a wide margin.**

How much money was saved?

- Penryn Fire saved \$305,000 from the \$1,497,000 of total revenue it received during the past 5 years.
- This dollar amount indicates that Penryn saved 20.4% of its total revenue.

What were the growth rates for revenue and expenses?

- Revenue grew about 150% over 5 years or 10% annually.
- Expenses grew about 118% over 5 years or 3.7% annually.

- Revenue exceeding expenses by a 6.3% margin led to a high rate of savings.

What is the Fire District debt?

- Penryn has no long term debt.

### **Conclusions**

- The numbers indicate Penryn Fire District has plenty of money.
- It is not a "struggle" to pay Penryn firefighters a higher wage.
- Most Penryn voters did not save 20% of their paychecks like the Fire District did during the last 5 years.
- The Fire District does not have any debt payments but most Penryn voters have to make car and mortgage payments each month.
- Penryn voters need their money more than the Fire District needs a new tax.

### **Vote NO on Measure P.**

Nicholas Smurro, Certified Public Accountant

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## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE P

The Penryn Fire District is asking for more taxes for the second time in two years.

*How much are they getting now?*

- Penryn residents already pay a special \$75 per parcel special fire assessment.
- Placer County gives 7.6 percent of the Penryn property taxes to the Fire District.

*Is this enough?*

- Penryn Fire District claims to need a new \$50 per parcel third tax source to solve its financial problems since “present and anticipated revenues are insufficient to fund ...fire safety in the district.”

*Are revenues rising too slowly?*

- No. The majority of Penryn Fire District revenue is derived from property tax revenue, which is based on the gross assessed value of property in the district.
- Over the past 5 years property values have accelerated from 7% to over 9% annual growth.
- Fire District revenue grows at approximately the same rate as property values.

*Does the Fire District need more revenue to provide additional services to Penryn residents?*

- No. Measure P would increase taxes without providing any additional services to Penryn residents.

*Is a new tax necessary because expenses are rising faster than revenues?*

- No. Expenses would have to rise at a double-digit rate in order to exceed the current high growth rate of revenues. If this were the case, the solution would be to control expenditures.
- Adding new taxes would not solve this problem but lead to a never-ending cycle of more spending and taxes.

*If revenues are not too low and expenses not too high, for what reason do we need a new tax?*

- At this time there appears to be no obvious reason.

***Vote No for taxation without a reason.***

***Vote No on Measure P.***

Nicholas Smurro, Certified Public Accountant

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## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE P

The single opponent to Measure “P” would have you believe that all is well in the world of fire district funding.

Clearly this is not the case as Penryn Fire is one of five different fire districts within Placer County that is seeking additional funds from voters at this election.

It is true that roughly seven cents of every Penryn tax dollar goes to the district. Other fire districts receive as much as twenty-five cents of every tax dollar. Penryn Fire's share is small.

Property taxes do increase slightly for the district annually, this rate of growth has failed to keep pace with the district's operating costs.

Penryn is a slow growth community surrounded by areas of rapid growth and development. Our residents enjoy the benefits of limited growth at the cost of a slower growing tax base for basic services.

Since the voter approved Special Tax in 1996, operating costs have increased by 117%. This increase, attributed to upgrading staffing levels, the state's ERAF shift, which took away part of the fire district funds. These coupled with an increased demand for services as well as increased costs in energy, fuel and worker's compensation insurance, have led to increased operating costs.

**Our paid staff earn minimum wage! Only \$6.75 hr.**  
Employees have no vacation, sick leave or retirement.

This new tax is limited to improving hourly rates for full time employees to the \$8.00 and \$10.00 per hour range.

**SUPPORT YOUR FIREFIGHTERS**  
**VOTE YES ON MEASURE “P”**

Michael Davis, Fire Chief

## RESOLUTION No. 2004-02

### RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PENRYN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF AN ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE SAID DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004. FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT A SPECIAL TAX TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE CURRENT FIRE DISTRICT OPERATIONS.

BE IT RESOLVED by the board of directors of the Penryn Fire Protection District (hereinafter referred to as the "district") as follows:

1. The Board of Directors of the Penryn Fire Protection District finds and declares that it is empowered to place property taxes, fees and assessments on the ballot for approval by the voters of the district as necessary in order to provide continued fire district operations and fire safety within the district.
2. The Board of Directors finds that present and anticipated revenues are insufficient to fund continued 24-hour operations and fire safety within the district.
3. A Special Tax shall be in addition to the existing special tax currently in place. This new special tax shall be levied in accordance with Article 16 of the Government Code to provide the necessary additional revenues for continued twenty-four hour fire operations in the District.
4. The following definitions shall govern the Special Tax:
  - A. Improved parcel shall define a parcel of real property, which has an improvement(s) with an assessed value of \$1,000.00 or more.
  - B. Residential parcel shall describe a parcel of land with a dwelling, inhabited or not. A residential parcel includes the land on which the dwelling is affixed.
  - C. Commercial parcel shall describe a building, or part thereof, power plant, tent, or mobile facility affixed to land used in business or trade. A commercial parcel includes the land immediately under a commercial building, power plant, tent or mobile facility.
  - D. Irrigated farm shall describe irrigated land used in the business of farming and any buildings thereon including a dwelling.
  - E. Mobile Home Park shall describe land rented as sites for mobile homes. The special tax rate shall be calculated per trailer.
5. After careful review, the district finds that the following annual special tax should be approved:

A. Improved Parcel:	\$50.00
B. Residential Parcel:	\$50.00
C. Commercial Parcel:	\$.04 (Per square foot*)
D. Irrigated Farm Parcel:	\$50.00
E. Mobile Home Park:	\$40.00 (Per Unit)

\*: Commercial parcels will be subject to a \$50.00 per year minimum rate and a maximum rate of \$600.00 per year.
6. The amount of the special tax specified in Section 5 above may be adjusted annually, at the discretion of the Penryn Fire Protection District Board of Directors, for the ensuing fiscal year to reflect the Consumer Price Index prepared by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, using the weighted average of Consumer Price Indexes (All Urban Consumers) for the State of California. The district shall be responsible for making the necessary computations each year prior to submitting the required

information to the county for collection. In the event that the Bureau shall cease to publish said index figure, then any similar index by another branch or department of the United States Government may be used in its place at the direction of the district.

7. The special tax shall take effect July 1, 2005, upon approval of two-thirds of the eligible votes, voting upon the adoption of such special tax and shall be collected for the district by the county.
8. The special tax shall be effective July 1, 2005, and continue until the law no longer allows, or until such time as the Penryn Fire Protection District Board of Directors rescinds this Special Tax.
9. An election is hereby called for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors within the district in accordance with Article 16 (commencing with Section 53970) of Chapter 4 of Part 1 of Decision 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, the question of the adoption of the special tax for fire protection services.
10. At the election there shall be submitted to the qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the district the following proposition:

*"Shall Measure P which imposes a fire protection special tax to continue current fire and emergency medical operations, maintain response times, and retain experienced fire and emergency medical personnel within the Penryn Fire District be approved?"*
11. In all particulars not recited in this resolution, said election shall be held and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Elections Code of the State of California so far as the same shall be acceptable except as otherwise provided in the Fire Protection District Law of 1961, as amended.
12. The district will cause further notice of this election by posting a copy of this resolution on or near the doors of the district office at least two weeks before the time fixed for the election.
13. This special tax shall take effect as provided herein. It shall be in addition to the existing voter approved special tax already in place. If any section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not effect the validity of the remaining portion of this resolution. The people of the Penryn Fire Protection District hereby declare that they would have adopted the resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentence, phrases or clause be declared invalid.
14. Passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Penryn Fire Protection District, Penryn, California, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2004 By the follow roll call vote:

Director:	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Bowling, Tom				X
Dobb, Chris				X
Gordon, Shirley	X			
Posehn, Mike	X			
Willson, Aaron	X			

Attest: Michael Davis, Fire Chief / Clerk